

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a host data processing system for providing electronic business functions for a first client and a second client, wherein the first client and the second client are different, plurality of business clients, the method comprising:
 - providing, within the host, a first software facility for a first one of the plurality of business clients, the first software facility including first software facility first and second level services;
 - providing, within the host, a second software facility for a second one of the plurality of business clients, the second software facility including second facility first and second level services;
 - said host providing web hosting, by the host, the first client and the second client, wherein the host provides storage, network connectivity, web hosting, and processing capability to both the first client and the second client; for said first and second ones of the plurality of business clients using said first software facility first and second level services and said second software facility first and second level services;
 - automatically determining, by the host, first software facility, that a transaction [[needs]] is to be executed between the first client software facility and the second client software facility, the determination is being made in response wherein determining is made responsive to a request from the first client, and wherein parameters defining bounds in which the transaction takes place are determined by the first client; and one of the plurality of business clients;
 - said first software facility making decisions on behalf of the first one of the plurality of business clients to execute transactions with the second software facility;
 - the first and second software facilities automatically completing the transaction, using the host, without any action required by either the first [[one]] client or the second client, one of the plurality of business clients, and
 - parameters defining the bounds in which the transaction takes place being determined by the first one of the plurality of business clients.
2. (Currently amended) The method ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1, wherein ~~the host the data processing system is comprises~~ a plurality of networked data processing systems.
3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~first software facility second level services and the second software facility second level services include at least one of providing host provides~~ inventory management services, ~~providing~~ accounting services, ~~providing~~ pricing services, and ~~providing~~ billing and collection services.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1, further comprising:
identifying, by the host, said first software facility, a purchasing need of the first client; ~~one of the plurality of business clients~~;
identifying, by the host, the second client ~~said first software facility, the second one of the plurality of business clients~~ as a vendor for the purchasing need of the first client; ~~one of the plurality of business clients~~;
facilitating, by the host, said first and second software facilities, payment; and
adjusting, by the host, said first and second software facilities, inventory records for the first client and the second client, ~~one and second one of the plurality of business clients~~.
7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as recited in~~ of claim 6, wherein facilitating payment comprises:
transferring appropriate sums from [[an]] a first account belonging to the first client ~~one of the plurality of business clients~~ to [[an]] a second account belonging to the second client, ~~one of the plurality of business clients~~.
8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1, wherein negotiations resulting in a service level agreement between [[said]] the host and the first client ~~one of the plurality of business clients for the providing of the first software facility first and second level services~~ are automated.
9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as recited in~~ of claim 1, wherein [[the]] a quantity of the first software facility first and second level services provided is adjusted by [[said]] the host based upon [[the]] fulfillment of criteria specified by the first client, ~~one of the plurality of business clients~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
subcontracting at least one of the storage, the network connectivity, the web hosting, and the processing capability, ~~the first software facility first level services and the second software facility first level services from a secondary hosting service.~~
- 11-30. (Canceled)
31. (Withdrawn) A method in a data processing system for facilitating business transactions, the method comprising:
hosting electronic business functions for a plurality of business clients;
identifying a need for a first business client based upon parameters received from the first business client;
determining a second business client, based on the parameters, capable of meeting the need of the first business client;
arranging for the second business client to perform a function fulfilling the first business client's need;
adjusting inventories, as necessary, of the first and the second business client; and
adjusting accounts of the first and the second business client to reflect payment for the item by the first business client to the second business client.
32. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the function performed by the second business client is providing an item to the first business client.
33. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 32, wherein the item has a tangible embodiment and is shipped from the second business client to the first business client.
34. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising:
locating a shipping company;
arranging shipment of the item; and
arranging payment to the shipping company for the shipment.
35. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the data processing system comprises a plurality of networked data processing systems.

36. (Withdrawn) A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data processing system for facilitating business transactions, the method comprising:

- first instructions for hosting electronic business functions for a plurality of business clients;
- second instructions for identifying a need for a first business client based upon parameters received from the first business client;
- third instructions for determining a second business client, based on the parameters, capable of meeting the need of the first business client;
- fourth instructions for arranging for the second business client to perform a function fulfilling the first business client's need;
- fifth instructions for adjusting inventories of the first and the second business client; and
- sixth instructions for adjusting accounts of the first and the second business client to reflect payment for the item by the first business client to the second business client.

37. (Withdrawn) A system in a data processing system for facilitating business transactions, the method comprising:

- a hosting unit which hosts electronic business functions for a plurality of business clients;
- a need identification unit which identifies a need for a first business client based upon parameters received from the first business client;
- a vendor identification unit which determines a second business client, based on the parameters, capable of meeting the need of the first business client;
- a transaction agent which arranges for the second business client to perform a function fulfilling the first business client's need;
- an inventory monitoring unit which adjusts inventories of the first and the second business client;
- and
- an accounting unit which adjusts accounts of the first and the second business client to reflect payment for the item by the first business client to the second business client.

38. (New) A recordable-type medium storing a computer program product for providing electronic business functions for a first client and a second client, wherein the first client and the second client are different, the computer program product comprising:

- instructions for hosting, by the host, the first client and the second client, wherein the host provides storage, network connectivity, web hosting, and processing capability to both the first client and the second client;

instructions for automatically determining, by the host, that a transaction is to be executed between the first client and the second client, wherein determining is made responsive to a request from the first client, and wherein parameters defining bounds in which the transaction takes place are determined by the first client; and

instructions for automatically completing the transaction, using the host, without any action required by either the first client or the second client.

39. (New) The recordable-type medium of claim 38, wherein the host comprises a plurality of networked data processing systems.

40. (New) The recordable-type medium of claim 38, wherein the host provides inventory management services, accounting services, pricing services, and billing and collection services.

41. (New) The recordable-type medium of claim 38, further comprising:
instructions for identifying, by the host, a purchasing need of the first client;
instructions for identifying, by the host, the second client as a vendor for the purchasing need of the first client;
instructions for facilitating, by the host, payment; and
instructions for adjusting, by the host, inventory records for the first client and the second client.

42. (New) The recordable-type medium of claim 41, wherein the instructions for facilitating payment comprises:
instructions for transferring appropriate sums from a first account belonging to the first client to a second account belonging to the second client.

43. (New) The recordable-type medium of claim 38, wherein negotiations resulting in a service level agreement between the host and the first client are automated.

44. (New) The recordable-type medium of claim 38, wherein a quantity of services provided is adjusted by the host based upon fulfillment of criteria specified by the first client.

45. (New) The recordable-type medium of claim 38, further comprising:
instructions for subcontracting at least one of the storage, the network connectivity, the web hosting, and the processing capability.

46. (New) A data processing system comprising:
a bus;
at least one processor connected to the bus;
a memory connected to the bus, the memory storing a set of instructions for providing electronic business functions for a first client and a second client, wherein the first client and the second client are different, and wherein the at least one processor is capable of executing the set of instructions to:
host, by the host, the first client and the second client, wherein the host provides storage, network connectivity, web hosting, and processing capability to both the first client and the second client;
automatically determine, by the host, that a transaction is to be executed between the first client and the second client, wherein determining is made responsive to a request from the first client, and wherein parameters defining bounds in which the transaction takes place are determined by the first client; and
automatically complete the transaction, using the host, without any action required by either the first client or the second client.
47. (New) The data processing system of claim 46, wherein the host comprises a plurality of networked data processing systems.
48. (New) The data processing system of claim 46, wherein the host provides inventory management services, accounting services, pricing services, and billing and collection services.
49. (New) The data processing system of claim 46 wherein the at least one processor is further capable of executing the set of instructions to:
identify, by the host, a purchasing need of the first client;
identify, by the host, the second client as a vendor for the purchasing need of the first client;
facilitate, by the host, payment; and
adjust, by the host, inventory records for the first client and the second client.
50. (New) The data processing system of claim 49, wherein the at least one processor is capable of executing the set of instructions to facilitate payment by-executing the set of instructions to:
transfer appropriate sums from a first account belonging to the first client to a second account belonging to the second client.

51. (New) The data processing system of claim 46, wherein negotiations resulting in a service level agreement between the host and the first client are automated.

52. (New) The data processing system of claim 46, wherein a quantity of services provided is adjusted by the host based upon fulfillment of criteria specified by the first client.

53. (New) The data processing system of claim 46, wherein the at least one processor is further capable of executing the set of instructions to:

subcontract at least one of the storage, the network connectivity, the web hosting, and the processing capability.